

King County DNRP Water Quality Index

STATION **434** WATER YEAR **2014**

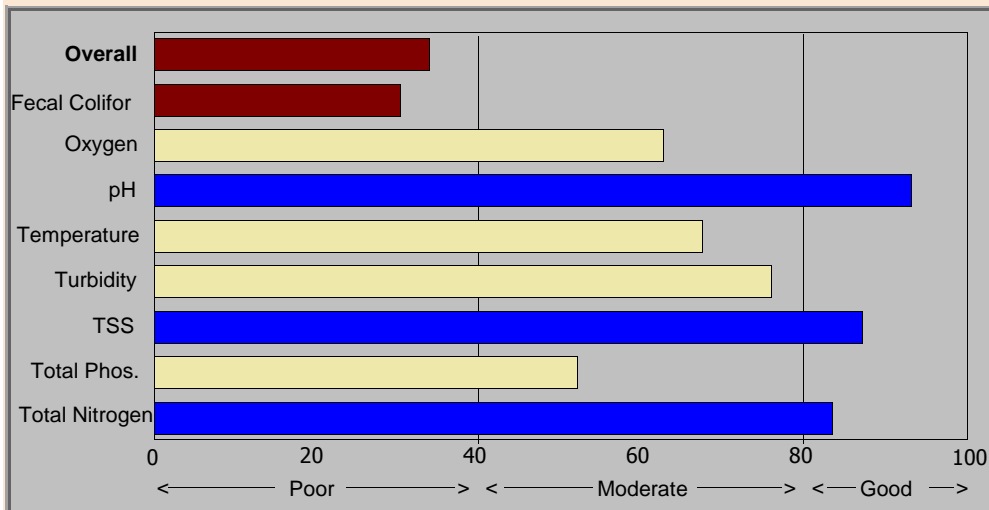
GAUGE # 58A Thornton Creek near Mouth

Overall Index 34

King County monitors water quality in Thornton Creek at station 0434, which is located one block south of Matthews Beach. Monitoring at this station began in 1971 and continues today. The Thornton Creek basin encompasses 7,402 heavily developed acres. The creek flows 15 miles and drains into Lake Washington at Matthews Beach Park. The Thornton Creek drainage has been changed dramatically throughout its history. After being heavily timbered in the late 19th century, farms, orchards, and diaries dominated the area until the mid-20th century. From 1940 to 2000, the population in the Thornton Creek basin quadrupled, growing from 17,500 to 75,400 in the 60 year period. Water quality issues have resulted from this growth; Thornton Creek is on the Washington Department of Ecology's 303(d) list of impaired waterways for violations of fecal coliform, dissolved oxygen, and temperature standards.

Annual Water Quality Index Scores

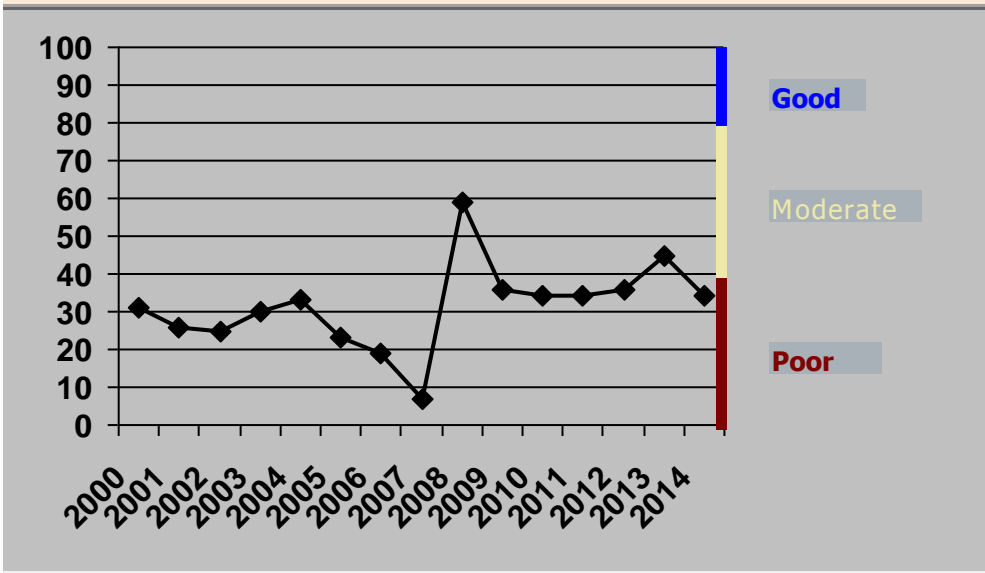
Water quality was POOR based on data collected 10/1/2013 to 9/30/2014.



Monthly Scores For Water Year 2014

Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
64	72	54	87	72	46	71	58	71	57	1	64

WQI Score Comparison By Water Year



About The Water Quality Index:

The Water Quality Index (WQI) score is a unit-less number ranging from 10 to 100: the higher the number, the higher the water quality. Scores are calculated from data collected during the monthly routine sampling. For temperature, pH, fecal coliform bacteria, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen, the index expresses results relative to levels required to maintain beneficial uses according to criteria in Washington's Water Quality Standards, WAC 173-201A. For nutrient and sediment measures where there are no standard, results are expressed relative to guidelines for this eco-region. Results from the eight parameters are aggregated over time to produce a single score for each sample station. In general, stations scoring 80 and above did not fail water quality standards or guidelines and are of "low concern", scores 40 to 80 indicate "moderate concern", and water quality at stations with scores below 40 are of "high concern". For more information about the WQI please visit <http://green.kingcounty.gov/WLR/Waterres/StreamsData/WQI.aspx>

For more information about this creek please visit our website at <http://green.kingcounty.gov/WLR/Waterres/StreamsData/streamlist.aspx>